

# Canadian International Development Agency

Government of Canada

No. 4, Commonwealth Caribbean Assistance Program

CA 1  
FAB/1  
-2002



A Barbadian studies veterinary science at the University of British Columbia.

The university asked for—and was given—a \$1 million grant each year for five years ending in 1971. About one-third of this was ear-marked for construction... for a residence for 120 students at Cave Hill campus; a faculty building at St. Augustine campus; centres for extra-mural study on Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, and a library extension at Mona campus.

The remaining grants were to provide for scholarships at UWI and in Canada as well as to pay for Canadian professors based in the West Indies and teaching on all three campuses.

This was the first time that Canadian aid had financed scholarships at an institution outside of Canada. In the 1968-69 school year, there were 93 students being sponsored on Canadian aid scholarships at the UWI and 21 postgraduate

students studying in Canada. Two senior staff members were also receiving special training in Canada.

During this same period, there were 18 Canadians teaching in 12 faculties on all three UWI campuses. Ten professors were based in Jamaica, five in Trinidad and three in Barbados.

#### LEEWARD AND WINDWARD ISLANDS

Sometimes called the Lesser Antilles, the small Caribbean islands that have been helped by Canadian aid programs this past decade are Antigua, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and Montserrat in the Leeward Islands and Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent in the Windwards.

**1962-65** Following the dissolution of the Federation in 1962, on-going projects continued as a series of individual programs. However, emphasis gradually shifted towards educational aid for these islands. Aid approached \$5 million for the three years beginning April 1, 1963.

In 1964, construction was started on four primary schools for Antigua, Dominica and Grenada at a total cost of \$1.5 million. In addition, port warehouses were erected on both St. Kitts and St. Lucia at a total cost of \$100,000.

**1966** In anticipation of the need to inaugurate an expanded aid program to this region, which the Canadian government had identified as one of the areas where Canadian aid was to be concentrated, an economic survey of the region was undertaken in the Spring of 1966. This was a Tripartite Survey, jointly sponsored by the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada. It established that the key to economic growth in the region was tourism. Although tourist facilities should be financed by private capital, the survey stressed the need for governments to develop the basic infrastructure to provide support services to cope with the increasing influx of visitors.

While the Tripartite Survey recommendations outlined a strategy for future assistance to these islands, Canada recognized that basing future assistance on them would require much time and discussion. Consequently, during the fiscal years 1965-66 and 1966-67, a program was developed which followed in general terms only priority requirements identified by the report.

The Canadian government undertook water projects in five of the islands at a cost of \$1.29 million. Furthermore, it

undertook to construct a primary school in each of two islands and a technical school in a third. Preliminary planning for a fish processing plant in Grenada also began.

**1967 onwards** Planning of the 1967 Canadian program to the Leeward and Windward groups coincided with CIDA being authorized to plan assistance programs over a five-year period. It was decided to concentrate the first five-year program on air transportation, agriculture, water resources and education—all essential to an active tourist industry. Canada made available a minimum of \$3 million per year for this task—beginning April 1, 1967. In addition, \$200,000 a year would be available for extra agricultural development.

Air transportation plans include major extensions to the airport runways at Antigua and St. Lucia plus feasibility studies of airfield locations in Nevis and Dominica.

In late 1967, the island governments themselves agreed to establish the Regional Development Agency and invited the three donor countries—U.S., U.K. and Canada—to participate in the Agency as ex-officio members.

The Agency hoped to coordinate specific project requests and recommend them to a specific donor. In addition, a regional bank has been established, which will make a pool of multilateral capital available to these islands.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Canadian businessmen interested in obtaining more details on Canadian development assistance in the Caribbean, south and south-east Asia, Africa and Latin America should contact the Director of Information, Canadian International Development Agency, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa 4, Ontario.

All material for this booklet was prepared and written by The Information Division, CIDA, Government of Canada, 75 Albert Street, Ottawa.

Published under the authority of the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, P.C., Secretary of State for External Affairs.

© Queen's Printer for Canada, Ottawa, 1969

Cat. No. E94-769/4

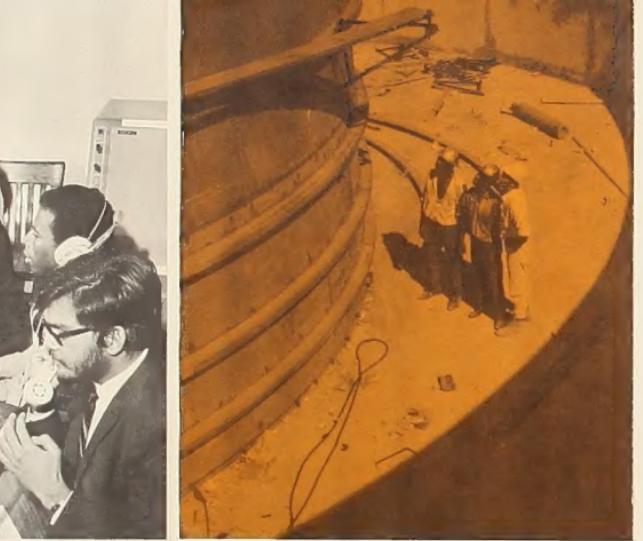


1. Guyanese learn landing pattern control at Ottawa airport.

2. A new sewerage plant for Harbour View, Jamaica.

3. St. Vincent's banana crop now leaves from deepsea dock, built with Canadian help.

4. Canadian cattle arrive for Trinidad dairy project.



2

#### WHY THE CARIBBEAN?

Anyone who has ever visited the Caribbean is well aware of the great contrast between where the tourists stay and where the majority of the islanders live. The luxurious hotels with their landscaped gardens stand out vividly beside the lean-to sheds and bits of corrugated iron which many islanders call "home".

Past traditions aside, it's mainly because of this gap between the "haves" and "have nots" that Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, has given grants and loans totalling over \$81 million to the Caribbean in the 11 years since 1958. In fact, each person in the Caribbean indirectly receives more Canadian aid dollars than those in any other area of the world.

#### HISTORY

During the period 1958-62, almost \$10 million worth of Canadian aid was given to the West Indies Federation—which comprised the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados and islands in the Windward and Leeward groups. Close to \$7 million of this was used to help strengthen an inter-island transportation system consisting of two passenger-carrying freight ships, a deep-water dock at St. Vincent, and loading equipment for several of the islands.

Education programs were also inaugurated including training West Indies students in Canada, sending Canadian teachers and teacher-trainers to the Caribbean and constructing a student residence on the University of West Indies' Trinidad campus. A small percentage of the total aid helped meet the cost of water development surveys and projects in some of the Lesser Antilles islands—in the Windward and Leeward groups.

The West Indies Federation was dissolved in 1962. From that time onwards, Canada's development assistance has continued as a series of separate programs to these independent Caribbean countries as well as to Guyana and British Honduras.

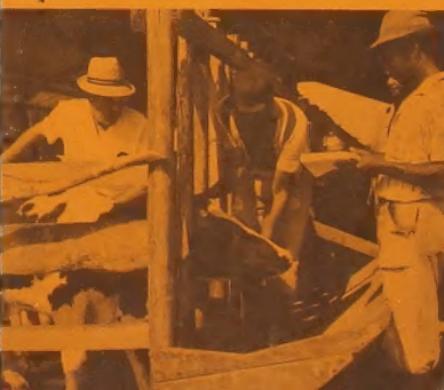
Actual aid has increased from \$10 million from 1958-62 to \$22 million pledged for the fiscal year 1968-69. Separate allocations have been established for Jamaica, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago whereas individual programs for Barbados, the Leewards and the Windwards are paid for out of a common fund. How the money is spent varies from country to country. It pays for everything from Jersey cows to new harbours; from fertilizer to the salaries of technical experts.

#### JAMAICA

Jamaica has received \$4.25 million worth of grants from Canada since 1964. They have been used almost exclusively to finance technical assistance . . . teachers, advisers and experts from fields as diverse as architecture and speech training. As of January 15, 1969, 25 Canadian teachers and seven technical advisers were in Jamaica; 63 Jamaicans were training in Canada. Their salaries and/or expenses are being paid for out of these grants.

Jamaica's \$14.75 million worth of development loans since 1964 have helped finance many aspects of her economic activity. Loans purchased materials for low income rural and urban housing, paid for 108 rural prefabricated schools, and provided for sewerage projects in the Kingston sub-division of Harbour View and water distribution in the eastern part of the parish of St. Mary's.

In addition, these development loans have helped Jamaicans construct the Bustamante Bridge, which was opened in 1968 and named in honour of Jamaica's first Prime Minister. It is part of a vital transportation system along the south coast. CIDA loans will also pay for another five bridges in the immediate future and a transportation study now underway.



They have paid for a feasibility study for storm and sanitary sewerage systems in Kingston's St. Andrews, equipment for the Jamaican Department of Public Works and a VHF communications network which provides for island communication service among government departments.

#### BARBADOS

Canadian assistance to Barbados is provided from the \$6 million allocation made available to the Eastern Caribbean Islands and British Honduras during 1968-69 . . . an increase of almost \$1 million over the year before.

Up to February, 1969, aid to Barbados has been mainly in two areas . . . education and agriculture. During the fiscal year 1968-69 there were four teachers and two advisers in Barbados and 37 Barbadians were receiving special training in Canada. Three primary schools are scheduled to be built on this island very soon.

Agriculturally, a \$250,000 development loan in 1967 financed the purchase of dairy cattle and equipment. Barbados has an active dairy industry but wished to receive new blood lines to maintain the health of the herds. Canadian cows did the job.

Canadian aid has made possible another project . . . the provision of \$50,000 for base maps prepared from an earlier aerial survey. These will improve the taxation assessment of property—another instance of helping the local people finance their own projects—an underlying aim of all Canadian aid.

#### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Since 1964, grants and loans to Trinidad and Tobago have totalled more than \$19 million. And, expressed in terms of Trinidad's population, Canadian aid in 1968-69 came to more than \$5 per person.

The grants during this five-year period totalled \$4.35 million and were used mainly to finance a technical assistance program. As of January 15th, 1969, there were 23 teachers and eight advisers on the islands while, at the same time, 56 Trinidadians were receiving specialized training in Canada under various programs. Four of these teachers, incidentally, are acting as advisers to the Ministry of Education to help set up teacher training courses for technical teachers.

The remaining \$14.89 million was in the form of development loans which have been used to finance rural electrification equipment, four prefabricated factory shells and cattle as part